

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT



ANTHONY J. DAROS
First Selectman

ANDREW J. CAMPBELL, SR.
JAMES B. COSGROVE

1019 MAIN STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 150
BRANFORD, CT 06405
(203) 488-8394
FAX: 481-5561
www.branford-ct.gov

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF ANTHONY J. DAROS, FIRST SELECTMAN TOWN OF BRANFORD

Concerning support for Bill 5121: An act concerning the use of organic pesticides on school property and authorizing municipal regulations of the use of pesticides on residential properties.

For the Hearing on March 16, 2012

To Senator Meyer, Representative Richard Roy and Members of the Environment Committee,

As First Selectman of the Town of Branford I write in support of Bill 5121. However, our town only supports the section of Bill 5121 that relates to restoring to our town the ability to have stricter lawn-care pesticide methods than the state. We do not want jurisdiction over all of residential pesticide uses - only lawn-care pesticide uses.

As you know, the Federal government usually sets minimum standards for the country and then state laws can be stricter - not less strict - and town laws can be stricter than the state - but not less strict. The tobacco and pesticides industries have somehow managed to flip this - and now, with the preemption law in place in Connecticut, no town can have stricter lawn-care pesticide laws than the state - not the other way around - as laws are intended.

Studies showed that if lawn-care pesticides are used in one part of a town - they can show up in the ground water in any other part of a town affecting sensitive wetlands, creeks and tidal estuaries.

Our town would like to have restored to it the option of having the lawn-care methods that are best for our town - and that our town's people and representatives agree are best for our town. That should be the right of each town. We are in support of the section of the Bill that would restore to our town the ability to have the lawn-care methods that are best for our town -- but never less strict - than the state.